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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MAY 1-3, 2015

HELEN HUNT'S NEW RIDE

metroLIFE

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The walk of the town

Jino Distasio, director of the institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, struts his stuff in Riverview in preparation for this year's neighbourhood touring event, Jane's Walk. See story in metronews. EVA WASNEY/FOR METRO

Budget banks on the future

GOVERNANCE

Province pulls from rainy-day fund, puts off balance to '19

Smokers and banks will pay more to help finance Manitoba's infrastructure spending in a deficit budget that comes close to draining its rainy-day fund.

The governing NDP tabled a $15-billion budget Thursday that boosts tobacco taxes by $1 on a carton of cigarettes that costs $128. It also increases the capital tax on financial institutions to six per cent from five per cent.

The budget draws $105 million from Manitoba's rainy-day fund to pay down debt and support infrastructure spending. That leaves $115 million in a bank account that boasted $864 million in 2009.

That will be replenished at some point "as the economy grows," Finance Minister Greg Dewar said Thursday.

The fiscal blueprint promises $1 billion in infrastructure spending as part of a five-year stimulus plan that was announced when the government raised the provincial sales tax in 2013.

It records the latest in a string of deficits as the province delays balancing the books until 2019 — four years later than originally promised. THE CANADIAN PRESS

REACTION TO THE BUDGET, PAGE 3

Of all the beverage containers that weren't recycled, how many were yours?

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NE044Z115

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Teenage survivor pulled from rubble five days after Nepal quake. **World**

CONSTRUCTION

RCMP reviewing paramedic stations

A controversial city project to construct four new fire-paramedic stations — including one built on land not even owned by the city — is now being reviewed by the RCMP.

At its meeting on Wednesday, city council voted to waive attorney-client privilege to allow investigators to interview city lawyers and inspect legal documents regarding the project, which was the focus of a blistering audit in 2013.

Acting chief operating officer Michael Jack confirmed the council decision was in response to a direct request from the RCMP.

"They've been proceeding in a sequence that I believe they had decided quite some time ago," Jack said. "They are now at the point where they wanted to ask some questions about this one."

The RCMP are also reviewing the findings of an audit into several city land deals, and have launched a criminal investigation into the development of the new police headquarters building on Graham Avenue.

"We want to do everything we can to assist the RCMP to proceed with and conclude their investigations," said Jack.

Mayor Brian Bowman concurred, and said the city will take immediate action if there has been any criminal wrongdoing.

"Restoring trust and faith in city hall is very high on my agenda, so we'll take (the RCMP investigation) very, very seriously," he said.

An RCMP spokesperson would confirm only that an investigation is ongoing, and could not provide further details.

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

CRIME

DNA leads to arrest of teen in sex assault

Police have used DNA to make an arrest in a sexual assault case dating back to last fall.

The 43-year-old female victim had been walking on Ellen Street near Notre Dame Avenue on the evening of Oct. 12 when an armed male youth grabbed her.

The woman was pulled behind a nearby building where, police say, she was seriously sexually assaulted.

Police were able to make a DNA profile of the suspect from forensic evidence seized after the assault, and late last week investigators say they were able to match the DNA to that of a previously identified suspect.

A 15-year-old boy, who was 14 at the time of the assault, has been charged with sexual assault with a weapon. METRO

Budget criticized as 'irresponsible'

POLITICS

PC leader says NDP is 'making promises' with our kids' money

Critics say the budget tabled on Thursday shows the NDP has given up even the pretence of trying to rein in spending.

Progressive Conservative Leader Brian Pallister said the government could have balanced the books this year if it had "just held the line on spending."

"They are making promises with money they are taking from our children and grandchildren here," the Opposition leader said. "It took 109 years for us as a province to get about $18 billion into debt. It's taken six for the premier and the NDP to double that debt. Somebody's got to pay that back."

Todd MacKay, prairie director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said the "overwhelmingly irresponsible budget" shows the New Democrats have a spending problem.

"They promised to have this budget balanced. Instead, the deficit is going up," he said. "Future generations are going to pay for this budget. It's completely irresponsible."

The infrastructure spending wasn't enough to win others over. Mayor Brian Bowman said it will do little to help the province's largest city.

"We need new money. The model is ... fundamentally broken in terms of how we fund our cities," he said. "We have an obligation to fix it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayor Brian Bowman reacts to the budget reading at the Manitoba Legislature on Thursday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WINNERS & LOSERS

WINNERS

Primary caregivers: Get a boosted tax credit for caring for vulnerable relatives at home.

Welfare recipients and low-income earners: Get an increase in rental assistance tied to market values.

Film production companies: Get an extension of a tax credit due to expire next year.

Small businesses: More of them will qualify for a venture capital tax credit.

Roads and bridges: More of them will be repaired as the government rolls out its five-year spending plan.

LOSERS

Smokers: Will have to pay another dollar in taxes on a carton of cigarettes.

Banks: Corporation capital tax is going up to six per cent from five per cent.

Rainy-day fund: Will have dwindled to $115 million after $105 million was taken out to pay down debt and fund infrastructure.

Taxpayers: Manitoba isn't adjusting income tax brackets to match inflation

Black ink: Budget posts a $422-million deficit, virtually unchanged from last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Police probe armed robbery at Sargent Sundae

Police released a description Thursday of a stolen car that suspects used to get away after robbing Sargent Sundae at gunpoint Wednesday night.

The ice cream shop had several customers waiting for cones around 9:45 p.m. when three men with their faces covered stormed in and demanded cash from employees.

The suspects fled with an undisclosed amount of cash in a previously stolen black 2003 Hyundai Elantra with a smashed out window and Manitoba plates FMJ 738. If the vehicle is spotted police advice not to approach it and say to call 911 immediately. METRO

Teens charged in River Heights vehicle break-ins

Police have two teens in custody after neighbours reported two suspects breaking into a vehicle in the River Heights area early Wednesday.

The two suspects were seen breaking into a vehicle parked in the 300 block of Montrose Avenue around 1:30 a.m. Police caught up with the suspects near Elm Street and Academy Road shortly after. Police said Thursday the same suspects are responsible for break-ins earlier Wednesday that saw loose change stolen from vehicles in the 200 block of Waverley Street.

Two male youths, aged 16 and 17, are each facing three counts of theft under $5,000, three counts of mischief under $5,000 and possession of break-in instruments. The 16-year-old faces further charges of failing to comply with the conditions of an undertaking and three counts of tampering with a motor vehicle. METRO

Christiane Germain, co-president of Group Germain Hotels, speaks to media as the company officially opened its first venture in Western Canada, the Alt Hotel in downtown Winnipeg, Thursday morning. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Alt Hotel opens up in downtown Winnipeg

CENTREPOINT

Venture part of development across from MTS Centre

Shane Gibson
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's newest downtown hotel is officially taking reservations.

After a quiet soft opening two weeks ago, the 20-storey Alt Hotel across from MTS Centre officially opened its doors with a tour for media Thursday morning.

"It's amazing to think that this day is finally here," said Christiane Germain, co-president of Group Germain Hotels, the Quebec-based hotelier behind the venture. "After more than five years of hard work Alt Hotel has arrived."

The hotel is the company's first in Western Canada and is part of the $100 million Centrepoint project being built through a partnerships between Germain, Artis Reit, and Urban Capital.

When it's complete Centrepoint will take up an entire city block on Portage Avenue between Hargrave and Donald Streets and will include the hotel, two restaurants, a coffee shop, four floors of office space, condominiums, and a parkade attached to the hotel by skywalk.

"I'm really glad this is here," said Winnipeg's deputy mayor Coun. Mike Pagtakhan. "It's going to put a lot of people in our downtown."

The hotel's 160 one- and two-bed rooms occupy the building's ninth through 19th floors, and office space fills the first floors of the tower.

Germain described Alt as a three-star hotel, and said the hotel's nightly rate of $149 won't fluctuate during special events and times when they see an increase in bookings.

VENTURE

Local restaurateur Bobby Mottola's latest venture, the Merchant Bar and Kitchen, is connected to the Alt Hotel and was scheduled to start serving up its Latin and Asian street food menu Friday.

JANE'S WALK

Play tourist in your own city

Eva Wasney
For Metro | Winnipeg

This weekend, Winnipeggers will have the chance to play tourist in their own town with the ninth annual Jane's Walk.

Residents from all over the city are leading free walking tours through their favourite Winnipeg neighbourhoods from Friday to Sunday.

"There are hundreds and hundreds of walks led by hundreds and hundreds of passionate people that want to share a story about why their neighbourhood is interesting and unique," said Jino Distasio, director of the institute of urban studies at the University of Winnipeg and a lifelong resident of Fort Rouge.

Jane's Walk is a worldwide phenomenon named after urbanist, activist and writer Jane Jacobs, who was renowned for her ideas about urban planning and neighbourhood development. Jacobs argued that denser cities would be safer and that neighbourhoods should be developed by the people living there.

On Saturday, Distasio will be leading a tour through his South Osborne community pointing out the area's interesting landmarks (like the garage where boxer Donny Lalonde practised sparring), and quirky history (did you know there was a racetrack in Riverview in the early 1900s?).

For Distasio, the epicentre of the tour is the intersection at Morley Avenue and Osborne Street.

"Every community, every city has its famous intersection and most Winnipeggers might think Portage and Main or if you live in Transcona it might be somewhere on Regent, but for us it's Morley and Osborne," said Distasio.

Before Winnipeg was Winnipeg, it was a cluster of separate municipalities.

Community loyalties remain and acknowledging those rivalries can be a fun part of the weekend, said Distasio.

Still, the walking tours are about celebrating neighbourhood pride.

"There are lots of defects that we can always amplify, but for at least one week out of the year, let's focus in on those wonderful stories and the wonderful things that have made neighbourhoods great," said Distasio.

CHARLENE PAQUIN

Committee appoints next ombudsman

A civil servant with more than 13 years of experience in senior government management positions has been appointed Manitoba's next ombudsman.

Charlene Paquin, who also holds a master's degree in social work, will assume the post on Monday.

An all-party standing committee on legislative affairs recommended the posting, which was approved by the cabinet.

Paquin worked most recently as the assistant deputy minister of the community service delivery division.

She takes over from Mel Holley, who was the acting ombudsman for more than three years after the resignation of Irene Hamilton.

The ombudsman can investigate complaints about access to information, privacy matters and the fairness of government actions or decisions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Spring giveaway weekend coming up

On May 9 and 10, kick all your unwanted household items to the curb for Winnipeg's annual spring giveaway weekend.

Everything is fair game if it's in good condition and labelled with a "Free" sticker or sign. Don't put out items that are unsafe or infested with bed bugs, or toilets with a 13-litre-or-more flush volume. Any leftover items need to be removed from the curb by dusk on Sunday. METRO

HOUSING

Markets at 'high risk' of correction: Report

Regina and Winnipeg are at high risk of a housing correction due to overvalued home prices and a glut of supply, according to a new report from the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

"In some of these markets we're seeing improvements," CMHC chief economist Bob Dugan told reporters Thursday.

However, Dugan said the agency will keep monitoring the two markets closely.

"We don't want to take our eye off the ball just yet, because we don't want to run the risk of missing something," he said.

"We don't want to take our eye off the ball just yet."
Bob Dugan

The study says the majority of other housing estate markets across the country are relatively stable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

DINING

Food trucks to line up at The Forks

Food trucks are coming to The Forks.

The Forks announced Wednesday that Israel Asper Way, between the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and the market, will become a food truck alley this summer.

> People come to The Forks to experience unique food.
> Andrea Clow

"People come to The Forks to experience unique food and now this will only enhance what we offer here," The Forks' Andrea Clow said in a release.

"Each truck will bring something fresh to The Forks and offers our guests even more innovative and local flavours to choose from."

Ten food trucks — including Habanero Sombrero, The Poutine King, Burgers R Us, Iggy's Family Doener, Healthy Eats, Little Bones Wings, Smokin' Haut, Fired Up!, Pop Cart, Hot Rod's and The Bannock Factory — are taking part and the alley will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 1 till Sept. 30.

The trucks will rotate, with four at designated parking spots daily.

A spokesperson for The Forks said the trucks would be providing their own power.

Winnipeg has seen a surge in food truck food offerings in recent years, thanks in part to relaxed food rules and easier parking systems. METRO

Derek Collins, owner and operator of The Poutine King food truck, offers up an order earlier this year on Broadway in Winnipeg. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Heather Porteous, head chef at Boulevard Pub and Bistro, isn't planning on bringing her experience from Chopped Canada to her new restaurant. EVA WASNEY/FOR METRO

New eatery serving family-friendly food

RESTAURANT

Head chef is a Chopped Canada contestant

Eva Wasney
For Metro | Winnipeg

A local celebrity of sorts is opening a new restaurant this Friday in Charleswood.

Heather Porteous is the head chef at the new Boulevard Pub and Bistro (3670 Roblin Blvd.) and is a competitor on this season of the Food Network's show, Chopped Canada.

For those who haven't seen the show, it's an elimination-round cooking challenge where contestants have to use mystery ingredients to make three different courses.

"I've never been that nervous before," said Porteous. "There's lights, there's cameras, it's a competition for $10,000 and all that comes into play when you're cooking."

Her anxiety was surprising because Porteous, who has more than a decade of culinary experience, also spends a significant amount of time jumping out of planes.

"I do competitive skydiving and it was like, 'really, this is what's getting me,'" she said.

Given her adventurous nature, it's no surprise Porteous likes to experiment with all kinds of cuisine.

"Some days I'm huge into deserts and other days it's like 'I want to be the best butcher in the entire world."

After graduating from Red River College's culinary arts program, Porteous ran a bakery in Elie for six years and went on to become the executive chef at Misty Lake Lodge in Gimli.

Porteous has infused her diverse background into Boulevard's menu with dishes like escargot and pickerel cheeks, but maintains the restaurant's approachability with pub staples like nachos and wings.

"You can come with your kids after baseball or you can come dressed up on your way to the theatre," said Porteous.

Porteous and her business partner Darcy Bruneau want to make sure Boulevard meshes with the established Charleswood community around it.

"We want to be a community-feeling restaurant that you can come to lunch for every single day," said Porteous.

Her Chopped episode, titled "Everything But The Kitchen Sink," airs June 20.

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FUNERAL FORMER SENATE SPEAKER REMEMBERED Family members of Pierre Claude Nolin, the late speaker of the Senate, look on as his casket is taken from the church following his funeral in Montreal on Thursday. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

DZIEKANSKI CASE

Mountie cleared of perjury

A second Mountie has been acquitted of perjury stemming from a public inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death at Vancouver's airport.

Const. Gerry Rundel was charged with lying during his testimony at the inquiry related to the Polish immigrant's death in October 2007.

Const. Bill Bentley was acquitted of his perjury charge in 2013, though the Crown is appealing the verdict.

Former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson was convicted last month of the same charge, while Const. Kwesi Millington was convicted in February and is awaiting a sentencing hearing.

The four officers were summoned to the airport when Dziekanski started throwing furniture in the international terminal, and one of them stunned him repeatedly with a Taser.

The Crown alleged the officers colluded on a story to tell homicide investigators and then lied at the inquiry to explain why their initial accounts contradicted an witness' video.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safe-injection sites get one step closer

MONTREAL

Federal OK the next stage now that province has approved

The Quebec government has given the green light to a project introducing facilities in the Montreal area where drug users can legally and safely inject themselves, but it's still far from becoming a reality.

Final approval for safe-injection sites rests with the federal government, which has strongly criticized offering drug users legal spaces to consume illegal substances.

In order to operate a safe-injection site, the federal government must grant an exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

In 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Ottawa's refusal to renew the exemption for Vancouver's injection site — the only one of its kind in Canada — was unconstitutional because it deprived people access to potentially life-saving medical care.

In response, the Conservative government tabled strict new legislation on safe-injection sites giving the federal health minister discretion to approve an application only under "exceptional circumstances" and only after applicants fulfil a long list of onerous obligations.

> **We won't wait for the federal government forever.**
> Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre

The bill is currently being debated in the Senate.

Health Canada said in a statement that it doesn't publicly comment on applications for such exemptions and there is no timetable for a decision on permits for four Montreal sites — three located in community organizations and a fourth that will be mobile.

Canada's only legal, operating, safe-injection site — called Insite — has been running in Vancouver since 2003.

Lucie Charlebois, Quebec's junior public-health minister, said safe-injection sites reduce the risk of drug overdoses and offer other social and health benefits.

Catherine Maurice, spokeswoman for Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, said the safe-injection file "is a priority for the mayor."

If the project gets the go-ahead from Ottawa, the first injection site will be in Cactus Montreal, a community organization that works to prevent blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections and which created North America's first needle-exchange program in 1989.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, meets with former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday.

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/RIA-NOVOSTI, KREMLIN POOL PHOTO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chretien visit defies Harper

RUSSIA

Former PM meets with Putin despite tensions

Russia's news agency is reporting that former Liberal prime minister Jean Chretien met Russian President Vladimir Putin in one of his palaces near Moscow on Thursday.

The meeting is a slap to the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which has moved to politically isolate the Russian leader, blaming him for the unrest in Ukraine and Russia's annexation of Crimea last year.

Harper has avoided direct contact with Putin, save for a brief and memorable handshake at the G20 summit in Australia last year, at which he tersely told the Russian leader to "get out" of Ukraine.

Putin is seen smiling at Chretien in a photo by the TASS news agency, that shows the two men seating in gold-and-white arm chairs in an ornate room.

Another news agency posted video of the meeting on YouTube.

"Putin and Chretien exchanged opinions on the current status of international affairs and discussed the painful points of current international situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in the TASS report.

"It's well known they have friendly relations or I'd even say relations of partnership."

There was no immediate comment from Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson or Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin says the Canadian Forces trainers will bring his country's soldiers and national guard up to a higher standard so they can better repel Russian aggressors.

Klimkin says the move can hardly be considered provocative, given that Russia has already compromised Ukraine's border by sending in mercenaries and heavy weaponry.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney has said the Canadian troops will be 1,300 kilometres away from Ukraine's restive eastern regions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

Diplomatic isolation

Unlike his fellow G7 leaders, Harper has chosen not to engage Putin over the crisis in Ukraine and has used some strong language to personally blame the Russian leader for it.

The Russians have also hit back at Canada, most recently when its embassy in Ottawa said it is both "counterproductive and deplorable" for the government to deploy 200 Canadian Forces soldiers to Ukraine as trainers to improve the combat skills of troops there.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LABOUR DISPUTE

Teachers' battle goes to Supreme Court

A bitter battle between British Columbia teachers and the provincial government is headed for the Supreme Court of Canada.

The province's highest court ruled Thursday that the government did not violate teachers' charter rights to bargain class size and composition, reversing a lower-court decision in favour of the union.

The B.C. Teachers Federation said it will seek to appeal the latest decision in Canada's top court.

"All teachers are asking for are workable, teachable classrooms," said union president Jim Iker. "We're asking for the government to give us the resources that will help us do our work — teaching our students."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST NATIONS

Reserve declares state of emergency

A reserve under one of the longest boil-water advisories in Canada has declared a state of emergency after the ferry connecting it to the outside world failed to pass inspection.

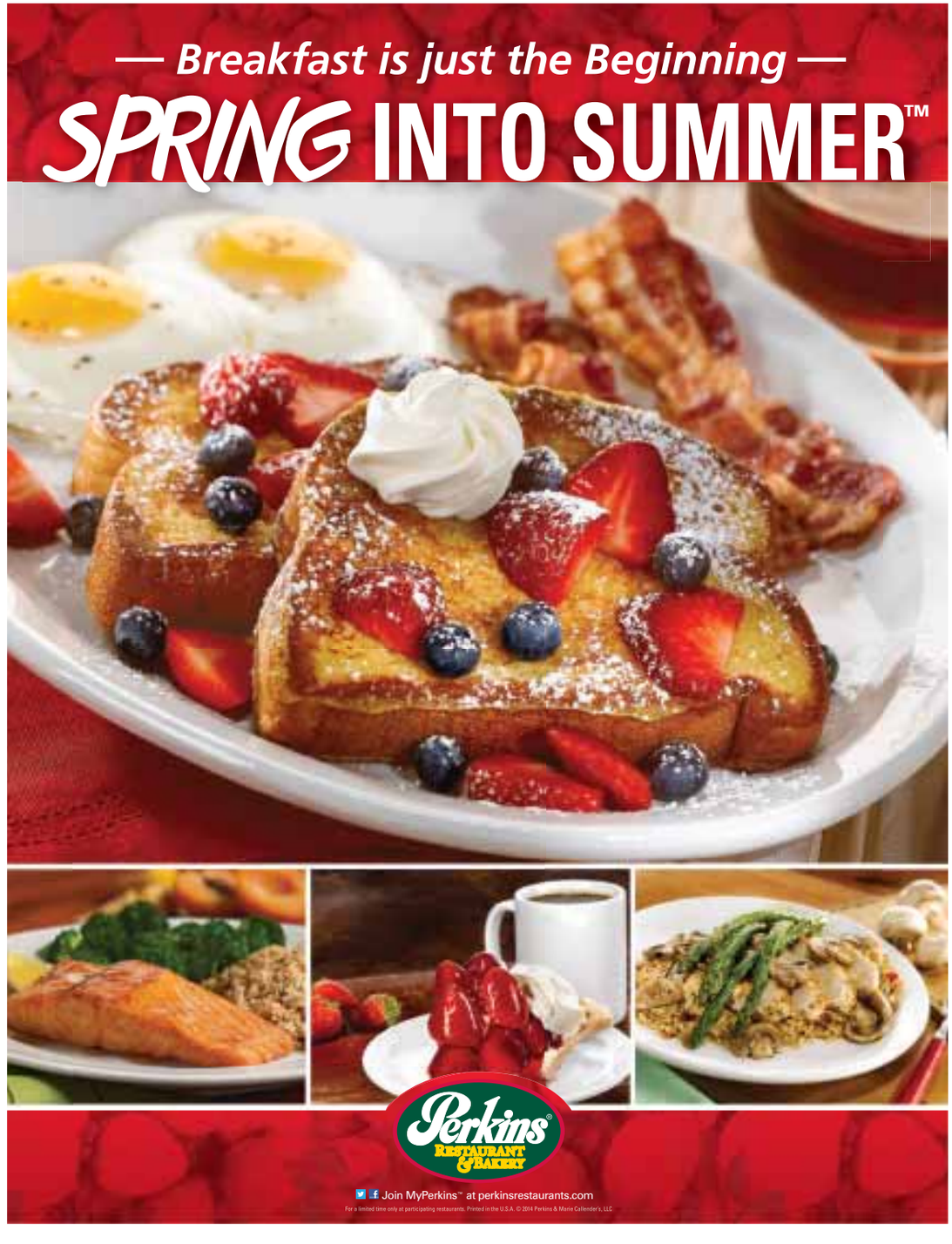
Shoal Lake 40 was cut off from the mainland a century ago to build an aqueduct which supplies the city of Winnipeg with fresh water.

The reserve, which straddles the Ontario-Manitoba border, has no all-weather road and has been under a boil-water advisory for 17 years.

Without the ferry, people on the man-made island have no way to get groceries or bottled water.

Chief Erwin Redsky says the community's survival is at stake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Military plagued by sexualized culture

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Ex-judge's report shows misogynistic behaviour

Being called an ice princess or a slut, or told that they only joined the army to find a man: those are just some examples of the misogynistic, highly sexualized culture that pervades the Canadian military and confronts its female members every day, a sexual-misconduct review said Thursday.

Eradicating that culture will take time and a concerted effort from military leadership, former Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps said in her report — a conclusion agreed to by top Canadian Forces brass.

They part ways, however, on the question of whether the problem can be resolved within the military itself or whether it demands outside help.

Deschamps' study, made public Thursday, documented a sexualized culture that new soldiers encounter the minute they join — one so pervasive they eventually become desensitized to it.

The result is an environment where women are afraid to report allegations of sexual harassment or assault because they fear career repercussions or not being believed by the chain of command, the report found.

Deschamps said she was able to document the extent of the problem — far worse than the military had ever previously been willing to acknowledge — mainly because she's not a soldier.

"The members at present do not have the sufficient confidence to report the incidents, and one of the reasons they came to me is that they were confident they were speaking in total anonymity," she said.

One of Deschamps' key recommendations is to take the existing complaint and support process outside the military bureaucracy and create an independent agency, similar to those in the U.S. and Australia.

Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, called the idea "unique," and "interesting" but said it requires further study.

In the end, the military only outright accepted two of the report's 10 recommendations — that they acknowledge there is a problem and that a broad culture shift is required to fix it.

The Forces said they are conducting several reviews to determine best practices and are promising public updates on their progress by fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BLAMING CULTURE SHIRKS RESPONSIBILITY: ROSEMARY WESTWOOD, METROVIEWS

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The report involved more than 700 interviews.

It detailed rape jokes, innuendo and crude, casual references to female genitalia as some of the incidents faced by soldiers. It also provided an insight into the perpetrators.

"A commonly held attitude is that, rather than be a soldier, a sailor or an aviator, a woman will be labelled an 'ice princess,' a 'bitch' or a 'slut,'" the report said.

Maj.-Gen. Christine Whitecross, who is leading the team organized by the military to respond to the report, recalled that when she joined the military, she too encountered such attitudes.

Things have improved over time, but there is a long way to go, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cpl. Ashley Turner from 39 Signals Regiment goes through M72 light anti-tank weapon drills at the Kabul Military Training Centre range in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2013.

SGT. NORM MCLEAN/THE CANADIAN FORCES

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Tories criticized over pricey ads

POLITICS

Cost estimated to be $750M

Happy-looking families, soccer-playing children and friendly neighbours are a staple of prime-time television these days as the Conservative government churns out post-budget advertising spots with the use of millions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says it's needed to make the public aware of Ottawa's programs. But the government ad blitzes, which have cost an estimated $750 million since Harper took power, are fuelling a fierce pushback from those who see the messaging as too pro-Conservative.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) says the ads are torqued for partisan gain, are a waste of precious financial resources and an affront to democratic fairness.

"It seems to me that everyone agrees the amount that's being spent now is too much," said CTF federal director Aaron Wudrick.

PM Stephen Harper
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Conservatives have often been criticized for the 2013 Canada Job Grant ads, which ran before the program existed.

Federal opposition parties have also stepped up their complaints about the television, radio, billboard and online ads in the wake of the Harper government's pre-election budget.

Criticizing the measures in the April 21 budget, the NDP's finance critic Nathan Cullen told MPs, "Canadians will be paying for the Conservative handouts to the wealthy for generations to come. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COST OF ADS

$52.3 million
The 2009 budget, known as the Economic Action Plan.

$2.5 million
A campaign to promote the Canada Job Grant in 2013, a program that did not exist.

$24 million
Washington, D.C. residents were bombarded with ads from the Canadian government to drum up support for the Keystone XL pipeline.

$13.5 million
The Tories plan to spend this amount to promote their pre-election budget.

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Manitoba Public Insurance

Two saved from wreckage five days after earthquake

NEPAL

Rescue brings unexpected joy to city reeling from disaster

Pemba Tamang is carried on a stretcher after being rescued by Nepalese policemen and U.S. rescue workers from a building that collapsed five days ago in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Thursday. NIRANJAN SHRESTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 15-year-old boy had been buried alive under the rubble of Nepal's quake-stricken capital for five days, listening to bulldozers clearing mountains of debris, fearful the incessant aftershocks might finally collapse the darkened crevice where he was trapped.

And then, "all of a sudden I saw light," Pemba Tamang said, recounting the moment he was pulled from a hole at the bottom of what was once a seven-story building in Kathmandu.

Tamang did not know whether he was alive or dead. "I thought I was hallucinating," he said.

The improbable rescue was an uplifting moment in Nepal, which has been overwhelmed by death and destruction since a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Saturday.

By late Thursday, the government said the toll from the tremor, the most powerful recorded there since 1934, had risen to 6,130 dead and 13,827 injured.

After night fell, police reported another dramatic rescue: a woman in her 20s, Krishna Devi Khadka, was pulled from a building in the same neighbourhood as Tamang near Kathmandu's main bus terminal, according to an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

When Tamang was finally extricated, rescue workers inserted an IV in his arm, propped him onto a yellow plastic stretcher — the same kind that has helped convey countless dead — and carried him through the ruins on their shoulders as if he was a newly crowned king.

Lines of police stood on both sides, keeping back mobs of bystanders and journalists. A dazed Tamang, wearing a dark shirt with the New York Yankees logo, blinked at the bright sky.

When the procession turned a corner and entered the main road outside, there was a sound Kathmandu hadn't heard in days: the jubilant cheers of thousands of ecstatic onlookers.

> **It gives us hope. We thought they were only bringing out the dead. It's hard to believe people are still alive.**
>
> Hans Raj Joshi, who watched Tamang's rescue

Nepal, however, is far from normal. More than 70 aftershocks have been recorded in the Himalayan region by Indian scientists in the past five days, according to J.L. Gautam, the director of seismology at the Indian Meteorological Department in New Delhi.

Shortages of food and water and worry over the fate of relatives have triggered an exodus from the capital, prompting thousands to board buses provided by the government to their rural hometowns.

"I have to get home. It has already been so many days," said Shanti Kumari, who was desperate to see family in her home village in eastern Nepal. "I want to get at least a night of peace."

Although small shops have begun reopening and the once-ubiquitous tent cities have begun thinning out, an air of desperation remains.

"We're still feeling aftershocks. It still doesn't feel safe," said Prabhu Dutta, a 27-year-old banker from Kathmandu.

Some residents have begun returning to work, including at Dutta's bank, but he said it was impossible to concentrate.

"We roam around the office. We only have one topic of conversation: the earthquake."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAKISTAN

Men get life for Malala attack

A Pakistani court on Thursday sentenced 10 militants to life in prison for their involvement in the 2012 attack on teenage activist Malala Yousafzai, a public prosecutor said.

Sayed Naeem said the court announced the ruling at an undisclosed location because of security concerns.

"Each militant got 25 years in jail. It is life in prison for the 10 militants who were tried by an anti-terrorist court," he said.

In Pakistan, 25 years is considered a life sentence.

Malala was shot in the head by the Pakistani Taliban when she was returning from school. The militants targeted her because she advocated education for women. Malala was initially treated in Pakistan but was later flown to a hospital in Britain, where she now lives with her family.

Malala, now 17, won world acclaim for her campaign and last year was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mullah Fazlullah, the Taliban leader who ordered the attack, is still at large, as are other militants who took part. The 10 who were sentenced on Thursday were detained by the military last year.

Also Thursday, the military said that 27 militants and five soldiers were killed in a gun battle in the country's volatile northwestern Khyber tribal region. The statement said the military was making strong gains in Khyber, a known militant stronghold.

Last June, Pakistan launched a major offensive in the North Waziristan tribal region, a long-time haven for the Taliban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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REMINDER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVISED ELECTRICITY RATES

APPLICANT:

MANITOBA HYDRO

APPLICATION:

2014/15 & 2015/16 General Rate Application

By Notice of Application and Pre-Hearing Conference dated January 20, 2015, the public was advised that Manitoba Hydro has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) of Manitoba for approval of new electricity rates.

Manitoba Hydro has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval to finalize a previously granted interim 2.75% rate increase effective May 1, 2014 and implement a 3.95% across-the-board rate increase effective April 1, 2015 to generate additional revenues of $57 million, and a further 3.95% rate increase effective April 1, 2016.

By letter dated January 27, 2015 to Manitoba Hydro (confirmed in Board Order 17/15), the Board indicated that it would only consider finalization of the previously granted interim rates and the proposed increase effective April 1, 2015. In Board Order 17/15, the Board indicated that it will provide further direction, in its final GRA Order, as to any additional information to be filed and considered before determining whether any process should be undertaken for possible April 1, 2016 interim rates.

Manitoba Hydro has also applied to implement Time-of-Use rates for the General Service Large (GSL) Customer Class served at greater than 30 kilovolts, effective April 1, 2016, and approval to change the definition of Billing Demand. Pursuant to Board Order 18/15, the Board determined that it will examine Manitoba Hydro's time-of-use rate proposal at the cost of service review and not during the current proceeding.

A summary of the proposed rate changes and annual electricity bill impacts for the average residential customer (with and without electric space heat) is provided below:

	Energy Rate (¢/kWh)	Basic Charge ($/month)	Average Annual Electricity Bill (no electric space heat, based on 1,000 kWh/month)	Average Annual Electricity Bill (with electric space heat, based on 2,000 kWh/month)
Existing Rate[1]	7.381¢	$7.28	$973	$1,859
2015 Applied for Rate[2]	7.672¢	$7.57	$1,011	$1,932

[1] Includes the 2.75% Interim Rate Increase effective May 1, 2014.

[2] The Board will determine the effective date for any revised 2015 electricity rates.

Manitoba Hydro is also seeking Board approval to:

1. Finalize Light Emitting Diode (LED) rates for the Area and Roadway Lighting Class, approved on an interim basis in Order 79/14;
2. Rescind the Demand Side Management deferral account for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 fiscal years, established in Order 43/13;
3. Finalize the rate approval process for Option 1 of the Surplus Energy Program (SEP) as approved on an interim basis in Order 43/13; and final approval of all interim ex-parte SEP rate orders issued since April 26, 2013 as well as any additional interim ex-parte SEP rate orders issued prior to the Board's final order in this matter;
4. Finalize the rate approval process for the Curtailable Rate Program (CRP) as approved on an interim basis in Order 43/13; and finalize interim ex-parte Order 46/14 as well as any additional interim ex-parte CRP rate orders issued prior to the Board's final order in this matter; and,
5. Finalize the Interim Orders related to the four remote communities served by diesel generation, as outlined in Manitoba Hydro's Application.

PARTICULARS OF APPLICATION:

Full particulars of this Application can be obtained by interested parties from:

Manitoba Hydro
Attention: Odette Fernandes
360 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G8
Phone: (204) 360-3633
(collect calls accepted)
ofernandes@hydro.mb.ca

The Public Utilities Board
Attention: Darren Christle
Executive Director
400 - 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C4
Phone: (204) 945-2638
Toll free: 1(866)854-3698
publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

An electronic version of the Application is located at: http://www.hydro.mb.ca/regulatory_affairs/electric/gra_2014_2015/index.shtml

VARIATION:

Upon an application to it, the Board may make an Order granting the whole or part only of the Application, or may grant such further or other relief in addition to, or in substitution for, that applied for, as fully and in all respects as if the Application had been for such partial, or further or other relief.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A Public Hearing to consider Manitoba Hydro's Application will be held at the Board's offices, located at 400-330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg. The hearing will begin on Monday May 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AS A PRESENTER:

Parties wishing to either submit a written brief or express oral comments to the Board, but not wishing to participate in the proceedings in their entirety are denoted as being 'Presenters'. Such parties should submit their written brief, or advise the Secretary of the Board of an intention to appear at the public hearing and make an oral presentation to the Board, as soon as possible and no later than one week prior to the start of the hearing. Persons wishing to address the hearing in French are required to notify the Board's Secretary on or before May 19, 2015.

PROCEDURE:

The Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules) apply to the conduct of the hearing. All interveners should familiarize themselves with the Rules, which can be seen at the Board's website www.pub.gov.mb.ca or obtained on request to the Board, by either emailing (publicutilities@gov.mb.ca), writing or calling the Board Secretary (945-2638 or 1(866)854-3698, toll free).

DATED this 21st day of April 2015.

Kurt Simonsen
Associate Secretary
The Public Utilities Board

Five days notice required.

Wheelchair access is available.

400 – 330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0C4
www.pub.gov.mb.ca

Manitoba

CRIMEA STALIN IMAGES ABOUND A woman with balloons walks past a billboard reading "Eternal glory to the victors" sponsored by the Communist Party, in Sevastopol, Crimea, Thursday. ANTON VOLK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED KINGDOM

Political parties make final push

With a week to go until election day, the leaders of Britain's three main political parties are making their last big televised bid to win over undecided voters.

Conservative leader David Cameron, Labour's Ed Miliband and Liberal Democrat chief Nick Clegg are fielding questions from voters at Leeds Town Hall in northern England — though they won't debate one another.

Cameron, the prime minister, went first Thursday, defending his government's cuts to welfare benefits and arguing that his "difficult decisions" had curbed the deficit and restored Britain's economy.

Debates have been a cause of election friction. Cameron's opponents branded him "chicken" after he agreed to participate in only one, a seven-way faceoff on April 2. Opposition leaders later held another debate without him.

Britons go to the polls May 7.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former FBI agent accused of perjury

CRIMINAL COURT

Fitzpatrick lied to boost sales of mob book: Prosecutors

A former FBI agent lied to jurors during mobster James (Whitey) Bulger's trial and overstated his professional accomplishments, including falsely claiming to be the first officer who recovered the rifle used to assassinate Martin Luther King Jr., federal officials said Thursday in announcing a perjury case against him.

Robert Fitzpatrick, who was once second-in-command of the Boston FBI division, surrendered to U.S. marshals with his lawyer after learning there was a warrant for his arrest.

Fitzpatrick, the first witness called by Bulger's attorneys during his 2013 racketeering trial, said he tried to persuade the FBI to terminate Bulger as an informant because the mobster didn't appear to be helping its mission to gather information on the Mafia. Fitzpatrick said his bosses didn't agree with him.

Prosecutors suggested he exaggerated that claim to sell copies of a book he wrote about Bulger.

Fitzpatrick pleaded not guilty in federal court Thursday on six counts of perjury and six counts of obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors did not seek to hold him on bail, agreeing with his lawyer that he could be released on a $50,000 unsecured bond.

"Mr. Fitzpatrick adamantly maintains his innocence and looks forward to challenging the government's accusations as soon as possible," his lawyer, Robert Goldstein, said after the brief hearing.

The indictment alleges that since 1998, Fitzpatrick "has falsely held himself out as a whistleblower who tried to end the FBI's relationship with Bulger." He was accused of making false statements "designed to aid Bulger's defence."

Fitzpatrick, 75, worked for the FBI from 1965 to 1986. In 1980, he was assigned as an assistant special agent-in-charge of the FBI's Boston division. In that position, he supervised the division's organized crime squad.

Fitzpatrick did not speak during Thursday's hearing, except to say "not guilty" when asked for his plea. The conditions of his release include that he give up his passport and limit his travel to within New England.

He is due back in court on June 10 for a status hearing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

James (Whitey) Bulger, 85, is serving two life sentences stemming from his 2013 racketeering conviction that ties him to 11 murders and other gangland crimes in the 1970s and '80s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A thick plume pours from the Calbuco volcano, near Puerto Varas, Chile, on Thursday, prompting officials to order the evacuation of nearby areas. DAVID CORTES SEREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chile's Calbuco erupts again

HIGH ALERT

Heavy rains could lead to devastating volcanic mud

The Calbuco volcano erupted again on Thursday, sending dark bursts of ash and hot rock billowing four kilometres into the air and prompting Chilean officials to order a new evacuation of nearby areas.

Thick clouds boiled out of a 2,000-metre cone, bringing the threat of new, heavy ash fall over villagers struggling to clean up from two huge blasts last week. The surrounding area was evacuated after the volcano first erupted last Wednesday afternoon, but many people had begun to return to their ash-drowned homes.

"We were working, cleaning the ash and sand from our homes when this third eruption took place. I feel so much anger and impotence it just breaks me apart," Horacio Camano, 43, said sobbing after fleeing the town of Ensenada with his family.

"There are no words for having to live this over again — having our families worried about us, all phones collapsed. I just want this to calm down so we can return home."

The eruptions at the Calbuco are the first in more than four decades. More than 4,500 people have been evacuated since the Calbuco roared back to life on April 22, sending ash about 18 kilometres into the sky.

Hours later, it produced a second, spectacular outburst that turned the nighttime sky reddish orange and caused huge lightning bolts to crackle through its ash plume.

The ash from those eruptions spread across the southern part of the continent, disrupting flights all the way in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, and causing widespread economic damage by turning cattle pastures barren and choking fish in one of the world's top salmon-producing countries.

> **"I feel so much anger and impotence it just breaks me apart. There are no words for having to live this over again.**
> Horacio Camano, 43, after fleeing the town of Ensenada with his family

"This latest eruption is much smaller than the other two," Deputy Interior Minister Mahmud Aleuy said during a news conference, adding that while the situation is not dangerous so far, some 2,500 people will be pulled out.

"We're talking about a plume that is about four kilometres and that is directed toward the southern part of the volcano, so we shouldn't have major problems except for those who live in the south of the volcano and who will be hit by ash."

The director of the National Mining and Geology service said that new eruptions greater than those last week are not expected. But he warned that rains, which are expected to fall beginning on Friday, could lead to devastating volcanic mud, known as lahars, which are capable of levelling anything in their path once in motion.

"Lahars are possible if we get heavy rains, so it's still a concern," said Rodrigo Alvarez, the head of the service. "This emission should begin to weaken in the coming hours and we'll have new forecasts. For now we remain on high alert."

Last week, LATAM and other airline companies cancelled several flights as a precaution because ash can severely damage jet engines. But LAN, the Chilean unit of LATAM, said its flights were not disrupted by the latest eruption.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAFFICKING

Alleged drug lord extradited from Guatemala to U.S.

An alleged narco kingpin wanted in New York for his purported role in an international drug-trafficking conspiracy was extradited to the United States on Thursday, Guatemalan authorities said.

Elio Alexander Lorenzana Cordon, 44, was handed over to U.S. agents and boarded a flight to the United States, said Rudy Esquivel, a spokesman for the Central American nation's prison system.

Lorenzana Cordon has been in custody since August 2011, when he was arrested in the eastern department of Zacapa on a U.S. extradition warrant.

His father, 76-year-old Waldemar Lorenzana Lima, and a brother also named Waldemar were extradited to the United States last year.

The U.S. Treasury Department has designated Lorenzana Cordon, his father and two other siblings as drug kingpins, accusing them of using business and agricultural interests as a front for smuggling narcotics.

The Lorenzanas are alleged to have facilitated the operations of Mexico's powerful Sinaloa Cartel in Guatemala, primarily the transport of cocaine northward from South America.

The family is also suspected of working with the Zetas, another cartel based in Mexico.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

Lorenzana Cordon is the son of Waldemar Lorenzana Lima, alias "The Patriarch," considered one of Guatemala's principal traffickers.

AUSTRALIA

Opposition reaffirms death-penalty stance

Australia's political opposition accused the government of winding back the country's rejection of the death penalty during a heated debate Thursday following Indonesia's execution of two Australian drug traffickers.

The execution by firing squad of eight drug convicts, including the two Australians, has rekindled fiery criticism of the role Australian police played in 2005 in tipping off their Indonesian counterparts about a plot led by the two men to smuggle more than eight kilograms of heroin from Bali to Sydney.

The two men, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 34, were executed Wednesday. Other members of the so-called Bali Nine ring they masterminded received lengthy prison sentences.

Australia retaliated by withdrawing its ambassador from Jakarta, but ruled out downgrading its co-operation with Indonesian police, which it regards as a crucial defence against global terrorism.

Critics argue that Australia weakened its anti-capital punishment credentials when it failed to criticize Indonesia in 2008 for executing three Indonesian terrorists responsible for bombings on Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians.

The opposition Labour Party on Thursday accused the government of playing down Australia's opposition to the death penalty in its latest directive to the Australian Federal Police on how it should co-operate with other police forces, including that of Indonesia.

Labour questioned why Justice Minister Michael Keenan had removed from his latest directive a requirement that police "take account of the government's long-standing opposition to the application of the death penalty in performing its international liaison functions."

The directive, issued last May, outlines the government's priorities and expectations for police.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said the directive undermined protocols aimed at preventing Australian police co-operation from leading to the execution of Australians.

He told reporters that Labour wants to make sure that such executions "can't happen again."

"I'm pretty outraged and offended that the Labour Party would use the tragedy of two Australians being executed to make what is an incredibly cheap and invalid point," Keenan said.

Amnesty International said in a statement Thursday that "Australia and its agencies must take a consistent and principled stance against the death penalty in all circumstances."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

Anti-death-penalty advocate Matthew Goldberg said Australian opposition to the death penalty has "hardened" since 2008, when Indonesia executed Bali bombers Imam Samudra, Amrozi Nurhasyim and Huda bin Abdul Haq.

Argentinian families looking for closure

VATICAN

Relatives hope Pope will open files on '76-83 disappearances

Family members of people forcibly "disappeared" during Argentina's 1976-83 military dictatorship are hoping Pope Francis will order the opening of files from the era.

Graciela Palacio de Lois, a member of the group Families of the Disappeared and Held for Political Reasons, said Thursday that the Argentine-born pope showed signs of wanting to release the files during the meeting.

The files contain complaints to the papal nuncio in Argentina and the episcopate by families of those disappeared during the military crackdown, including Palacio de Lois' letter denouncing the 1976 disappearance of her husband.

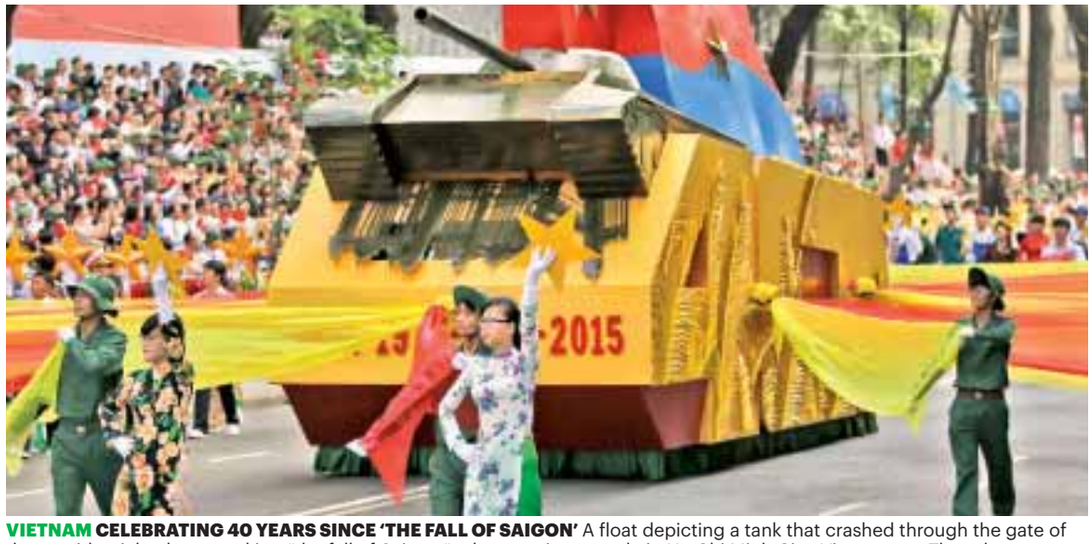
"The Vatican would just send us a brief reply saying they had received it," Palacio de Lois said.

> **"The Vatican would just send us a brief reply saying they had received it."**
> Graciela Palacio de Lois, regarding her complaints

But she said that when the head of her group, Angela "Lita" Boitano, personally asked the Pope to have the files released, he responded: "We're on it."

"The Pope also said they're working on that and they're preparing a document," Palacio de Lois said. She said the information was later confirmed by Monsignor Giuseppe Laterza of the Vatican secretariat of state.

Official estimates say 13,000 people were killed or disappeared in a government-sponsored crackdown on leftist dissidents during Argentina's "Dirty War." Human-rights activists believe the real number was as high as 30,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



VIETNAM CELEBRATING 40 YEARS SINCE 'THE FALL OF SAIGON' A float depicting a tank that crashed through the gate of the presidential palace, marking "the fall of Saigon," takes part in a parade in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on Thursday, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. DITA ALANGKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Boy, 11, detained at Lego store in Calgary

An 11-year-old boy's father says his son was detained for shopping by himself at Calgary's Lego store.

Doug Dunlop says his boy Tadhg went to the store Sunday to spend his own money, as he has done dozens of times before. Dunlop says the guard and the store's manager told him children under 12 are not allowed in the store without an adult because of safety concerns. Officials with Lego and Chinook Centre mall were not available for comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court to decide if woman can sue energy firm

The Supreme Court of Canada will decide whether an Alberta woman can sue the province's energy regulator over her claim that hydraulic fracturing has so badly contaminated her well that the water can be set on fire.

She alleges that fracking on her land northeast of Calgary released hazardous amounts of chemicals such as methane into her well. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 82.72¢ (-0.45¢)

TSX 15,297.04 (-50.30)

OIL $59.57 US (+0.99¢)

GOLD $1,182.60 US (-$27.40)

NATURAL GAS: $2.751 US (+14.5¢)
DOW JONES: 17,928.77 (-106.76)

EMPLOYMENT GM PLANS TO CUT 1,000 JOBS FROM OSHAWA PLANT A sign outside Oshawa's General Motors car assembly plant is shown in Oshawa, Ont. General Motors says it will cut about 1,000 positions from its Oshawa, Ont., manufacturing operations this year as the company plans to spend billions of dollars to boost its U.S. operations. By December, GM Canada's main assembly operation is expected to have 2,600 hourly employees — down from 3,600. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Canadians less of a credit risk: Study

BANKS

National rates for delinquency 20% lower in immigrants

New Canadians are a better credit risk than the general population, even though banks still tend to view immigrant investors more cautiously due to a lack of financial background information, says a new Equifax Canada study.

"There is a common misconception that providing credit to new immigrants is a risky move for financial institutions, but the fact is that immigrants have a 20 per cent lower delinquency than the national average of the general population," explains Regina Malina, senior director of decision insights at Equifax Canada.

In her latest report, she says lenders often approach new Canadians with caution, and wind up presenting these customers with a limited product selection for credit due to a lack of insight into their credit history and risk score.

As a result, limited credit options tend to push customers to seek credit with another institution because the initial options available to them may not meet their changing needs.

Between 2006 and 2011, approximately 1.2 million people immigrated to Canada, primarily from China and India, and one of the first things newcomers do is apply for credit to secure housing, car loans and phones, she said.

The study is based on a sample of approximately 114,000 new immigrants identified within the Equifax database, who immigrated to Canada between 2010 and 2011. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHINA

Building firm says no one is faster

A Chinese construction company is claiming to be the world's fastest builder after erecting a 57-storey skyscraper in 19 working days in central China.

The Broad Sustainable Building Co. put up the rectangular, glass-and-steel Mini Sky City in the Hunan provincial capital of Changsha using a modular method, assembling three floors per day, company vice-president Xiao Changgeng said.

The company, which has ambitions to assemble the world's tallest skyscraper at 220 floors in only three months, worked on Mini Sky City in two spurts separated by winter weather. Its time-lapse video of the rapid assembly has become popular on Chinese video-sharing sites since it was first uploaded on YouTube.

Such modular approaches have been used for highrise apartment blocks elsewhere, including in Britain and the U.S. Some critics say the method could lead to cityscapes with overly uniform architecture.

The company is awaiting approval for its 220-floor Sky City in Changsha. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A puddle reflects the Mini Sky City building in Changsa. PENG PENG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015

Happy face/Sad face

From the **drought diet** to **lunchbox letdown**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week

Bright lights banned on behalf of birds

New Yorkers are saying "lights out" to bright outdoor lights on government buildings between 11 p.m. and dawn during the spring and fall to help migrating birds find their way. Scientists believe birds use the stars to navigate, but they can be disorientated by electric lights, causing fatal run-ins with glass windows — the direct cause of a billion bird deaths per year.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it time to say adios to avocados?

The drought in California is taking a toll on crops like almonds and broccoli, but hardest hit may be avocados. Farmers pay premium prices for increasingly rare water, and avocados are thirsty — a pound needs 72 gallons to grow, compared to nine for tomatoes. If the drought continues, avocado prices will skyrocket — if they're available at all. If you love guacamole, maybe now's the time to binge. GRUBSTREET.COM

What your brain looks like on flakka

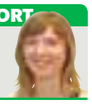
A spate of bizarre incidents in Florida have been blamed on Flakka, a synthetic drug similar to bath salts. One user ran around naked yelling he was Thor; another impaled himself on a fence. The drug, also called gravel, is cheap at $5 per vial, causes delusions and is dangerous: the people who spontaneously strip do so because the drug causes a spike in body temperature to a life-threatening 41 C.

That's the way the cookies don't crumble

A four-year-old girl in Denver came home from school disappointed, with untouched Oreos and a note from her teacher. The preschooler told her mom that she wasn't allowed to eat the cookies in her lunchbox because they weren't healthy enough. The note told her parents to pack a nutritious lunch that includes a fruit, vegetable and a healthy snack.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Selfie sticks — please leave home without one

THE KOHLER REPORT
Rebecca Kohler



Organizers of Grand Slam tennis tournament, Wimbledon, announced this week that they will be banning selfie sticks from this year's event and I say, "Point Wimbledon!"

If you don't know, selfie sticks — sometimes referred to as "The Wand of Narcissus" or "narcissisticks" — are long poles to the end of which one attaches their smartphone, allowing for better, wider selfies.

The first time I saw a selfie stick in a store I thought it was a gag gift, akin to those wine glasses that hold an entire bottle of wine or fake doggy-doo.

When I realized it wasn't a joke, I wondered who could be SO dedicated to taking pictures of themselves that they needed a tripod — or uni-pod — to do it?

It's like investing in equipment for a company named Self-Love Incorporated.

I'm not saying I've never taken a selfie. Like smoking, it's the kind of thing most people have tried at least once — and those who haven't are probably boring and self-righteous like the people who brag about not being on Facebook.

And selfies can be really handy. Like when you're buying new glasses and you want a friend's opinion, or when you have a weird rash and need your mother's advice (it was eczema).

But on a recent trip to Mexico, I realized how out of hand the selfie and selfie-stick situation was. My boyfriend and I paid $150 each for a tour to the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza. When we got off the tour bus, I saw a flurry of selfie sticks extending around me like a crowd of unfurling umbrellas reacting to a sudden rainstorm.

When did a picture of yourself in a place become more important than the place?

The earnest and well informed tour guide proceeded to show us around the grounds but upon each stop, half the group would walk away and proceeded to take selfies in front of the various dilapidated monuments.

It seemed so utterly wrong. "Here I am at Chichen Itza! A place I know nothing about because instead of learning, I choose to bask in self-admiration!"

It's like they'd paid $150 to be doing the exact same thing they do at home — stare at images of themselves. Except here they were able to spend more money doing it in a hot and dusty place.

It was distracting and super disrespectful, both to the tour guide and, frankly, to the late Mayans. But the most irritating part is that on Facebook, all these people will look less like the arseholes they are, and more like worldly, interested travellers.

When did a picture of yourself at the place become more important than the place? And if that's all you want, then go visit a green screen and have at 'er.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

"A searing portrait of harassment, abuse and rape"

We now know — beyond doubt — that military life is soaked in sexual harassment.

A report released Thursday details in 100-odd pages a sick "sexualized culture" in the Canadian Armed Forces. It's a searing portrait of harassment, abuse, rape and the silencing of victims.

But no perpetrators are held accountable in this report. It's focused on "policies, procedures and programs" around sexual misconduct and condemns all three.

Author and former judge Marie Deschamps wasn't asked by military brass to investigate assaults. They think they're already doing a good job with that. The report says they're wrong, and I can't understand why her recommendations don't call for a full investigation into cases that have been, as her report details, swept under the rug by a farcical complaints-resolution policy that treats sex crimes as misunderstandings.

Without that, military leaders, and criminals, can hide behind "the culture" — with no accountability in the ranks.

Culture is a wispy, hard-to-pin-down fog that lays blame on everyone and no one.

Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, and Maj.-Gen. Chris Whitecross — the woman tasked with implementing change — both admitted during a press conference to witnessing a sexualized work environment, something Lawson said "became uncomfortable" when women joined the ranks.

Deschamps documents "sexual jokes, innuendos, discriminatory comments ... and unwelcome sexual touching," which are conducive to "sexual harassment and assault."

One man told Deschamps, "girls that come to the Army know what to expect."

Military women (and LGBTQ) must conform to this environment, because filing complaints would risk their careers, the report says. Most choose the jobs they love over justice. They can't have both.

Lawson did promise change. "I will not accept anything less" than exemplary conduct, he said.

But from the gist of the report, he'd have a pretty barren barracks if every officer who didn't live up to his "exemplary" standards was expelled.

Maybe a truth and reconciliation program is needed, where senior officers and others admit to and apologize for their own behaviour without fear of reprisal.

Phillip Millar, a former officer and now a lawyer who represents military sexual assault victims, said such a program could mean a meaningful change in tone from on high. Otherwise, no one is going to admit to anything, he told me.

"Influential people, respected and good people, have allowed or engaged in it," he said. Given that, we shouldn't be surprised that "culture," not people, will be blamed.

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You can watch it in your house, you can watch it with a mouse! Netflix to bring Green Eggs and Ham to life

Superheroes need a reality check

ANALYSIS

Real-world problems could provide poignant plot points for flicks

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

It's not a spoiler to let you know the Avengers save the world in Age of Ultron.

The spectacular six have rescued the planet before and, no doubt, will save it again in the future. In superhero movies the globe is always on the eve of destruction.

The original movie, 2012's The Avengers, saw the team protect the planet from Thor's evil brother Loki while in Superman II, the Man of Steel battles three Kryptonian criminals set to obliterate our orb. A baddie named M tries to wage world war in The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen and recently the Fantastic Four prevented a giant cosmic entity called Galactus from gobbling up the earth.

"I see a suit of armour around the world," says Tony Stark in Age of Ultron. "Peace in our time, imagine that."

The movies get bigger every time out and with 30 more superhero flicks scheduled for the next five years — including Deadpool, Doctor Strange and Gambit — the mind reels at the ways villains might endanger our world. It sounds entertaining but haven't we've already been there? Where do you go from the threat of total annihilation?

Diminishing returns in terms of audience reaction, that's where.

We all know The Avengers will pull out all the stops to save Earth. Buildings will crumble, trucks will go airborne and giant cracks will appear where city streets used to be, but by the end credits you know everyone will emerge relatively unscathed, with the bad people vanquished and the good guys grinning from ear to ear.

Viewers are left with CGI fatigue, but damn it, a catastrophe was averted. Again.

But we've been there, done that. Why not freshen things up and turn back the hands of the doomsday clock a few minutes to create tension in the form of different kinds of situations?

It sounds counterintuitive — bigger is always better, right? — but imagine Captain America going mano a mano with Kim Jong-un or Iron Man shrinking down to the size of a microbe to battle cancer from the inside à la Fantastic Voyage.

The real world is a very complicated place. Every day the news delivers more bad information than all the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles combined.

Stories of beheadings, terrorism and all manner of terrible behaviour flood the airwaves aching to be corrected by some sort of superhero.

What if the moviemakers pitted superheroes against the Canadian Senate or other things that trouble us in our day-to-day lives? CONTRIBUTED

How great would it be to see warrior princess of the Amazons Wonder Woman unleash the Lasso of Truth on the Canadian Senate or weather maven Storm get all medieval on climate change?

An injection of real-world issues might not make for big box office, but it certainly would infuse the movies with a sense of unpredictability — just like real life events. Real life is messy and volatile and that's what keeps it interesting.

I understand one of the reasons we go to movies like The Avengers: Age of Ultron is to see things we'll never witness in real life, but it's hard not to agree with Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) when he says:

"We're fighting an army of robots and I have a bow and arrow — it makes no sense!"

These movies try to dazzle our eyes — and they do! — but bringing them down to earth, literally, might help us engage our brains as well.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Avengers: Age of Ultron ★★
Far From The Madding Crowd ★★★
Ride ★★★
Preggoland ★★★
Can't Stand Losing You: Surviving The Police ★★★

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★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
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The Hunt for the perfect break

INTERVIEW

Helen Hunt hangs ten in her new film about surfing and self discovery

Steve Gow
Metro | Life

For her latest movie, Helen Hunt was energized by a hobby she took up relatively late in life to break free from her comfort zone — surfing.

"My inspiration was hearing the phrase 'soccer mom' — all these mothers and fathers sitting on the sidelines while their kids play and have fun," admitted Hunt recently from L.A.

"I thought it would be very funny to write this woman who's so twisted up in her own intellect and (imagine) where would she feel the least comfortable."

In the comedy Ride, which Hunt wrote and directed, she stars as the stiff-necked New Yorker who winds up in California chasing her 20-something surf-seeking son after he drops out of college.

There, the bullheaded matriarch soon finds herself carving up some gnarly breakers as well.

"It's the simplicity of the sport," the 51-year old star explained of her real-life allure to surfing.

"All you need is a plank of wood or fibreglass and then your teammate or opponent — depending how you look at it — is this giant unpredictable thing that Mother Nature made.

"It's hard to think of anything more compelling."

Hunt admits directing her second film (after 2007's Then She Found Me) was not a simple task, however.

Spending up to eight hours a day being crushed by coastal waves was physically, even mentally demanding.

"On the other hand," added Hunt, "I felt like I was playing."

Interestingly, the twice Oscar-nominated actress (winning in 1998 for As Good As It Gets) points out the most difficult part of filming in water was actually the sound.

"Where I really screwed myself is I wrote eight pages of dialogue in water and there's a reason why people don't do that very often — it's really hard to shoot," said Hunt. "I just hope people can hear what I wrote in there."

Ride opens in theatres May 1 and will be available On Demand May 12.

ON LOCATION

The toll of shredding

For Hunt, there was a lot of physicality involved in making a surfing movie. "It's wonderful and terrible as I tried to show in the movie," said Hunt. "There were days I just came home and I was shivering head to toe and I wasn't cold — I think it was just exposure or something."

Helen Hunt and Luke Wilson star in Ride. CONTRIBUTED

Now playing

COMEDY

She's Funny That Way

Director: Peter Bogdanovich
Starring: Imogen Poots, Owen Wilson

A married Broadway director (Owen Wilson) implores a call girl to turn her life around while the star of his latest production makes a play for his wife (Kathryn Hahn) in this ensemble comedy from director Peter Bogdonavich.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
No reviews yet	+83%

DRAMA

Avengers: Age of Ultron

Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans

When Tony Stark jump-starts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go awry and Earth's Mightiest Heroes: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Black Widow and Hawkeye, are put to the ultimate test.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
73%	+99%

DRAMA/SCI-FI

The Age of Adaline

Director: Lee Toland Krieger
Starring: Blake Lively, Michiel Huisman

After miraculously remaining 29 years old for almost eight decades, Adaline Bowman (Blake Lively) has lived a solitary existence. But a chance encounter with a charismatic philanthropist reignites her passion for romance.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics:	Audience:
54%	71%

A dish that's Far from the Madding Crowd

COOKING

A simple lamb leg inspired by a classic Victorian novel

MY TV DINNER

Jessica Allen

Jessica Allen, the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social, faces two important questions every day. What's for dinner? And what to watch while she eats? Every Friday she'll free associate food, film and TV and discover that the answer to one question is usually found in the other.

Jessica tried her hand at a traditional recipe of lamb with rosemary #oldskool #careymulligan #farfrommaddingcrowd. FILM IMAGE CONTRIBUTED/LAMB IMAGE JESSICA ALLEN

I've never read any Thomas Hardy. I've also never cooked lamb. These two truths are related. Bear with me.

The most recent film adaptation of Far from the Madding Crowd — Hardy's fourth novel, which enabled him to quit his architectural day job — hit theatres Friday.

There are as many film versions you can watch at home as there are sheep in a herd. In the newest film, Carey Mulligan stars as Bathsheba: the kind of woman who "was indispensable to high generation," Hardy wrote of his heroine, who "was hated at tea parties, feared in shops, and loved at crises." Like a gender-reversed Judgement of Paris, Bathsheba must choose between three suitors: a sergeant, an older (and richer) bachelor, and Gabriel Oak, a sheep farmer.

That brings me to lamb, which, like many Canadians, I didn't grow up eating. My mom used to broil lamb chops for herself. But she knew we'd turn up our noses at something more exotic than Hamburger Helper. The Oxford Companion to Food suggests that on account of the distinctive taste of lamb fat, domesticated young sheep meat has never been as popular as pork, beef and chicken in North America.

Here's the thing: I don't dislike lamb. But I've never gone out of my to eat it. I'm inexplicably finicky about it — as stuffy as Hardy's Victorian crowd who disapproved of his lascivious prose that dared to suggest women aspired to more than marriage. Like Bathsheba, I had to make a decision: And I decided to make a Sunday lamb dinner.

I would turn to British food writer Nigella Lawson's How To Eat for a recipe: her marinated butterflied leg of lamb with garlic potatoes to be precise. I also bought peas. (English peas, obviously.) Although it was a first for me, the dish counts as one of Lawson's "most regular regulars," which she prepares year-round — outside over a grill if the weather permits it. On Sunday, it did. So I marinated the flayed leg, which resembled something from Ridley Scott's Alien, in olive oil, lemon zest, smashed garlic cloves and minced rosemary.

I grilled the fatty side first. It effortlessly crisped up — almost caramelized — and it smelled of the woods. It was all so glorious that I texted my partner Simon, who works on Sundays. "It's happening!" I said. " I am making the lamb!!!!"

The dinner could've easily fed four. But we chose to make it a dinner for two. I'd like to think that Hardy, who grew up in County Dorset, where heritage breeds of sheep are plentiful, would approve. Plus — and forgive me for the 141-year-old spoiler alert — he married Bathsheba off to the sheep farmer.

SEPARATING INFORMATION AND JOURNALISM

Sometimes it's better to lose the news race

Mike Donachie
Metro | Toronto

Fidel Castro and Joni Mitchell were both the subject of death rumours this week. RIGHT: AFP/GETTYIMAGES; LEFT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Joni Mitchell lapsed into a coma on the day Fidel Castro died. Except she didn't, we think, and he didn't. Probably.

Welcome to the world of the celebrity death rumour, and its terrifying effect on newsrooms.

This week, The Associated Press reported the 71-year-old folk singer was in a bad way.

So, in pursuit of web hits and knowing celebrity sells, news organizations across the world ran the story, until Mitchell's social media people tweeted that she was fine, thank you, despite a stay in hospital. Cue hasty corrections, then conflicting reports about the singer's condition, which may or may not be serious, depending on whom you ask.

Meanwhile, rumours of the death of Castro, everybody's favourite cigar-chomping threat to freedom, swept this newsroom. To be fair, Castro has been sick for a long time, so it might happen soon. But, at the time of writing, he isn't dead. I think.

Fellow death hoax targets Jon Bon Jovi, Jeff Goldblum and Charlie Chaplin are also still alive. Oh, wait. Not Chaplin. But Morgan Freeman dies about twice a week.

Social media may be feeding this, but the power of rumour is not new.

Mark Twain's famous statement about reports of his death being "greatly exaggerated" was made after a newspaper report in 1897, for example. Then there's the persistent nonsense about why Paul McCartney was barefoot on the Abbey Road cover, and whether he'd kicked the bucket and been replaced by another left-handed bass player who looks a bit like Angela Lansbury.

We love rumour, but it's a source of consternation for journalists.

As long as humans exist, there will be glee at hoodwinking others. But in this fast-moving world, there's never been a greater need for checks; just ask the Associated Press.

Social media may dominate our lives, but it should never dominate our thinking. The Joni Mitchell error shows the value of reading proper news sources and recognizing the difference between information and journalism. Sometimes it's better to lose a race, and to be trustworthy.

Just don't forget to tweet me if you see Elvis.

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Vergara's ex makes plea to save embryos

DISPUTE

Former fiancé of actress defends lawsuit in open letter

Actress Sofia Vergara's former fiancé says in an op-ed that he sued the Modern Family star to protect their frozen embryos because he longs to become a parent and doesn't want the "two lives" they created to "be destroyed or sit in a freezer until the end of time."

Businessman Nick Loeb wrote Wednesday on NYTimes.com that as the child of divorced parents he yearned to have the kind of family depicted in artist Norman Rockwell's iconic paintings.

He said when he was in his 20s, his girlfriend had an abortion and the decision was "entirely out of my hands." Later, he married a woman with whom he tried to have children with the help of a fertility specialist. The marriage eventually ended.

When he and Vergara became engaged, he said, he began "to push for children," but she insisted they use a surrogate.

> **This is not just about saving lives; it is also about being pro-parent.**
> Nick Loeb in an op-ed on NYTimes.com

He said initially two fertilized embryos were created. The first one implanted didn't take and the surrogate miscarried the second. "I felt crushed," he wrote.

Two more embryos were created before their relationship ended. He said he was willing to take full parental responsibility if Vergara didn't want to share custody, but she refused.

The two had signed a form stating that any embryos they created could only be brought to term if both of them agreed. Loeb said the form didn't specifically say, as California law requires, what would happen to the embryos if they separated.

"A woman is entitled to bring a pregnancy to term even if the man objects," he said. "Shouldn't a man who is willing to take on all parental responsibilities be similarly entitled to bring his embryos to term even if the woman objects?"

Loeb said Vergara's lawyer has told reporters that she wants to keep the embryos frozen indefinitely. "In my view, keeping them frozen forever is tantamount to killing them," he said.

Vergara didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Loeb wrote that people have asked him why he doesn't just move on and have a family of his own. "I have every intention of doing so," he said. "But that doesn't mean I should let the two lives I have already created be destroyed or sit in a freezer until the end of time."

He said he takes the responsibility of being a parent seriously. "This is not just about saving lives; it is also about being pro-parent." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sofia Vergara's ex, businessman Nick Loeb, is suing the star over their frozen embryos. GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY IMAGES

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE, SAYING GOODBYE TO A BELOVED CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

Taylor Swift reaches out to fan battling cancer

The family of a 12-year-old Chicago girl with cancer says Taylor Swift called her to talk about music, touring and her disease.

Ed Beazley said Swift chatted with his daughter, Emily, for about 10 minutes Wednesday night.

Emily has non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Friends and family have been appealing to Swift through social media to call Emily, including a video with about 200 children singing and dancing to Swift songs.

Emily's mother, Nadia Beazley, says her daughter had "the biggest smile" and "jumped up and down" after the Grammy Award winner's call.

She says Swift's manager offered the family tickets and the opportunity to meet the singer at her Detroit concert May 30. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lois Lilienstein funeral featured mariachi, songs and chocolate

A private funeral for beloved children's entertainer Lois Lilienstein of Sharon, Lois & Bram was an unconventional celebration featuring a mariachi band and chocolate chips.

Lilienstein's son David says last weekend's ceremony included tears, laughter and recordings of his mother singing Little Sir Echo and Cab Calloway's Everybody Eats When They Come to My House. He says the Toronto celebration was led off by a mariachi band, which was one of her final requests, and ended with a sprinkling of chocolate chips on her grave "so she can cook her famous brownies in heaven."

Lilienstein died Wednesday after a battle with cancer. She was 78. The bubbly blond performer is credited with providing the special spark that helped make Sharon, Lois & Bram one of the biggest kids' acts of the 1980s.

David Lilienstein says details of a public memorial are still being worked out but will almost certainly include music. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lois Lilienstein of Sharon, Lois & Bram THE CANADIAN PRESS

Period piece heroine not defined by the era

ADAPTATIONS

Carey Mulligan drawn to her character's strength

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York

Carey Mulligan stars as Bathsheba Everdene in Far from the Madding Crowd. HANDOUT

Carey Mulligan says she wasn't really looking to do another period drama when Far from the Madding Crowd came along.

She's always done them, however, the role of Bathsheba Everdene — a headstrong, independent woman juggling three suitors to whom she's either indifferent or weirdly into — was too good to turn down.

The actress talks about how this Thomas Hardy adaptation was different and whether she'd ever do something bigger and splashier.

The uniqueness of Bathsheba Everdene: What I was so excited about was that it's a story that started with a woman who turned down a proposal of marriage. And a good one.

It's a young woman in one of the Victorian classics that doesn't start her story looking to be married and isn't looking to be defined by a man. It really hasn't crossed her mind that she would be married.

That was so exciting. That was obviously not the viewpoint of most women of the time. And throughout the story she enjoys bucking social conventions. She's incredibly complicated and stubborn and fallible and spontaneous and impetuous — all these things mixed together.

On the other actors: When you get to work with actors like this, there's a certain security — especially when you make an idiot of yourself in the first week, which is what I did.

On director Thomas Vinterbergh: We had so many extensive, long conversations, going around and around on things. And Thomas said things over and over and over again. It was really annoying. By the time we were on set we were set on an idea. It was a complete collaboration between all of our ideas. I was never going to fall into some kind of stereotype.

On the costumes: We wanted to feel like real people and not actors wearing outfits, not people wearing makeup — but still vaguely attractive in daylight.

> **It's a young woman in one of the Victorian classics that doesn't start her story looking to be married and isn't looking to be defined by a man.**
> Carey Mulligan, on Bathsheeba Everdene

We never wanted it to feel like a buttoned-up costume drama, where people wear outfits and look uncomfortable. It was about real people. The way Thomas shoots it's all about performances. The era is reflected in the costumes. The makeup and the hair, because we were outside all the time, could get ruined immediately.

It had to be endurable and functional. But they always made us look good, which was a bonus.

The idea of her ever taking an action movie role: Never say never to anything. The decisions I've made over the last couple years have been driven by the characters and the scripts and the directors.

I'm always drawn to really strong characters, but also characters that have a lot to them. I'm not really interested in playing two-dimensional people.

But what's amazing about Bathsheba is how complex and mixed-up and strong and resilient — she's just so many things in one. That's what I'm driven by. And if that came in the form of some action hero, then of course, that'd be great. But it might not happen.

SEQUEL

Avengers stars share fun facts

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

The followup to 2012's massive The Avengers promises to be even more gargantuan, with new superheroes, more story to tell and a one really shiny, really deadly villain. So here's what you need to know going into Avengers: Age of Ultron.

> **I could not have told you who they were, who I was, what movie I was making.**
> Joss Whedon, on getting lost in the film

1 **Black Widow did not do her own stunts.** "I don't think you're allowed to ride a motorcycle when you're still pregnant," Scarlett Johansson says. "I embarrassingly rode some sort of a mechanical bull type of motorcycle which goes nowhere and doesn't look cool at all. But we had some very professional and amazing motocross work being done that makes Black Widow look like a total badass."

2 **Iron Man didn't do any meddling.** According to franchise star Robert Downey Jr. — who kicked off the whole Marvel Cinematic Universe deal seven years ago with Iron Man — he didn't have to do any meddling with the script this time around. "I read (Joss Whedon's) script, I said, 'I think this is great.' (Marvel honcho) Kevin (Feige) said, 'You never say that, you can't mean that,'" Downey recalls. "I thought it was a Swiss watch to begin. So rather than dig in my heels and try to rewrite every scene ... I just showed up and it turned out great."

3 **It nearly killed Joss Whedon.** "There's like 47 of these people, and I really didn't think that through. And I regret very much doing this at all," jokes the writer-director, who was under tremendous pressure to follow up the critical and financial success of the first film. "At some point during the editing process, I could not have told you who they were, who I was, what movie I was making. I got so lost in it. But, I think it all came together."

4 **James Spader got a crash-course in Marvel movie-making.** The Blacklist star embodies the chillingly evil robot Ultron bent on destroying the Avengers — and humanity in general. And he barely had any time to get into character. "Luckily I'd had some conversations with Joss and one fantastic meal with a whole bunch of wine to figure out who this guy was," says Spader.

5 **There are secrets the cast can't divulge.** Mark Ruffalo, who stars as the Hulk, says their studio bosses have ways of making them not reveal spoilers. "You know, we have a Marvel app on our iPhones and if you say something wrong it literally shocks you," he says. OK, maybe they don't really, but we wouldn't put it past them. Speaking of secrets ...

6 **Hawkeye speaks!** Jeremy Renner's Hawkeye admittedly didn't get a whole ton of screen time in the first Avengers, so he gets a bit more attention this time around. "I speak in this movie, which is awesome," Renner jokes. "I understood Hawkeye in the sense of he's a human just with a high skill set, so I could tap into that."

7 **Jarvis comes to life!** One of the new characters on display is the much-anticipated Vision, played by Paul Bettany, who had previously only served as the voice of Tony Stark's computer system, Jarvis. "However, I now also have to show up at press junkets, so everything's a double edged sword."

Fact: Scarlett Johansson was pregnant during filming, so she did not do her own stunts in Avengers: Age of Ultron. HANDOUT

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news
PETS ON BOARD
After a successful pilot project, Amtrak is permanently allowing customers to travel with small pets.

A Rocky Mountain high

'Really special' Abbot Pass Hut straddles Continental Divide, two provinces

If it isn't already on your bucket list, it should be. Perched in the picture-perfect Rocky Mountains is one of the oldest and highest places in Canada to lay your aching bones and happy head.

The Abbot Pass Hut is a thing of beauty itself. Swiss mountaineers chiselled square blocks of rock out of the landscape to craft what has since been designated a national historic site. And it's like nowhere else on Earth.

The building straddles the Continental Divide and the Alberta-British Columbia boundary.

"You could go out the front door and throw a snowball down one side or down the other side and that snow, that water, would end up in two different oceans," says Keith Haberl with the Alpine Club of Canada.

You can also make dinner in Alberta, he says, then walk across the hut and eat it in B.C.

"It really is a special place."

The alpine club took over the hut from Parks Canada in the 1970s. It also maintains and operates 24 others in Canada, making the network of back-country huts for hikers, mountain climbers and skiers the largest in North America.

Abbot Pass Hut's elevation is listed at 2,926 metres. So if you're coming from sea level, you'll first want to spend a few days in the area acclimating to the thinner air.

The only way to get to the trailhead is by booking a bus ride to Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park; this year it runs June 19 through Oct. 4.

Once you're on the ground, the initial one to two hours of the hike is scenic and relatively easy. The next couple of hours is more gruelling, up a steep slope of small slippery rocks. A helmet is recommended as protection from rocks that fly from under the feet of people walking ahead.

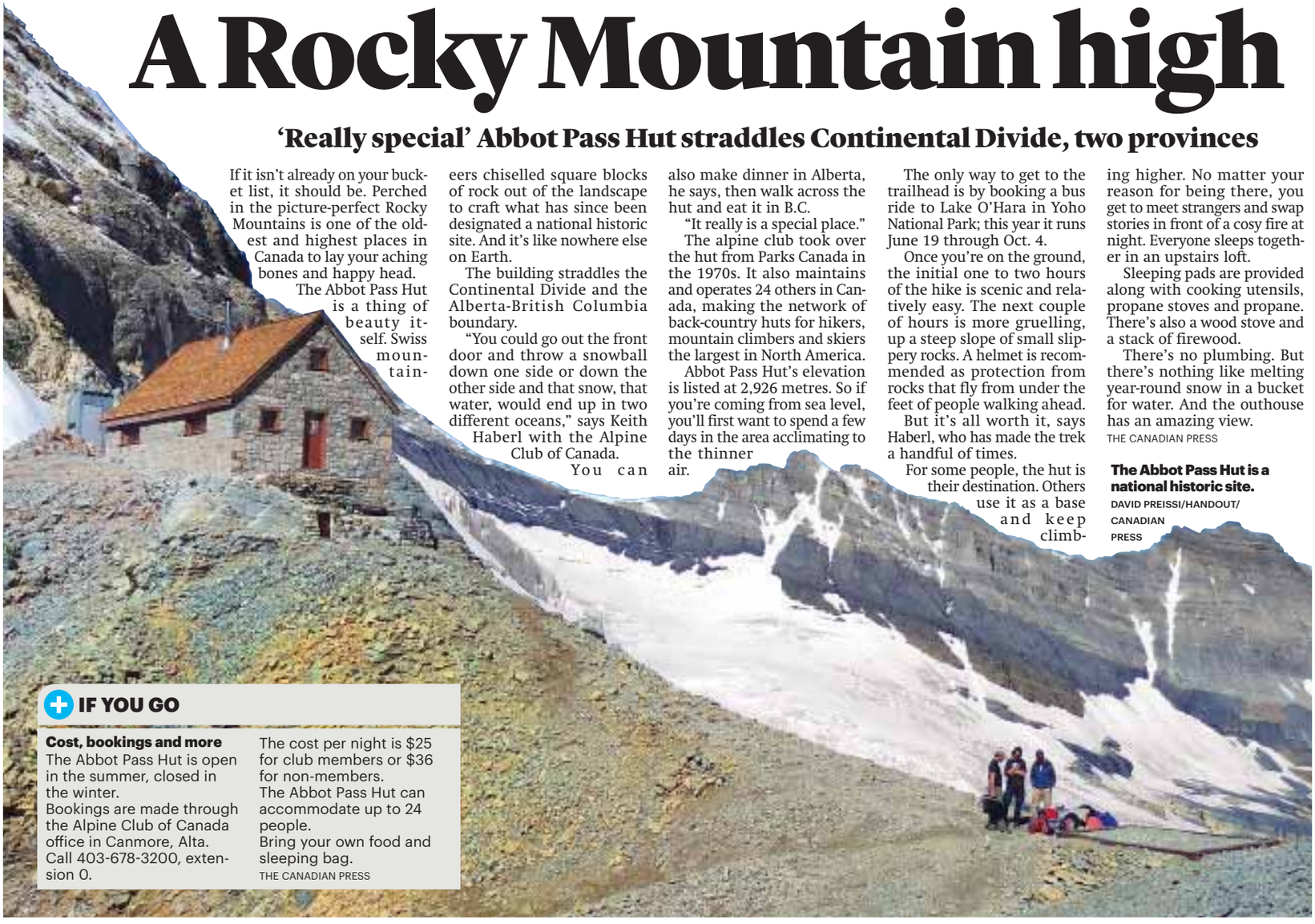
But it's all worth it, says Haberl, who has made the trek a handful of times.

For some people, the hut is their destination. Others use it as a base and keep climbing higher. No matter your reason for being there, you get to meet strangers and swap stories in front of a cosy fire at night. Everyone sleeps together in an upstairs loft.

Sleeping pads are provided along with cooking utensils, propane stoves and propane. There's also a wood stove and a stack of firewood.

There's no plumbing. But there's nothing like melting year-round snow in a bucket for water. And the outhouse has an amazing view.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Abbot Pass Hut is a national historic site.
DAVID PREISSI/HANDOUT/ CANADIAN PRESS

IF YOU GO

Cost, bookings and more

The Abbot Pass Hut is open in the summer, closed in the winter.

Bookings are made through the Alpine Club of Canada office in Canmore, Alta. Call 403-678-3200, extension 0.

The cost per night is $25 for club members or $36 for non-members.

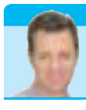
The Abbot Pass Hut can accommodate up to 24 people.

Bring your own food and sleeping bag.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAVEL TIPS

Airbnb hosts should cultivate trust and safety



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

Three days ago a Calgary couple cut their vacation short after neighbours called to let them know their Airbnb renters were trashing their home. The couple is now faced with up to $75,000 in damages.

As terrible as this couple's experience has been, it's important to remember this is an anomaly.

In Canada there are more than 18,000 people using this industry-leading accommodation-sharing website and worldwide more than 35 million guests have stayed with Airbnb. According to Airbnb spokesman Jakob Kerr, "property damage is extremely rare."

One of the hallmarks of the site is the user reviews of both potential hosts and guests.

These reviews allow sides to vet each other based on referrals and past experiences.

According to Aaron Zifkin, the country manager for Canada, "the secret sauce of Airbnb is trust and safety."

Airbnb has said it has zero tolerance for the behaviour of the Calgary guests and banned them from renting again through the website.

If you are still eager to make some extra money and wouldn't mind having strangers sleeping in your space, this incident should be viewed as a good lesson but not a reason to never use Airbnb.

In addition to vetting potential guests through the user reviews, make sure to fill out the house rules section so your guests can understand what is expected of them before booking. Do they have to arrive before dinner? Is it lights out after midnight? Are pets allowed? Be comfortable saying no if something just doesn't seem right. You are under no obligation to host everyone.

Make sure to check on local bylaws. Various jurisdictions, such as the province of Quebec, are looking at how to regulate this rapidly growing industry. Remember that any damage, as is the case for the Calgary homeowners, is covered under Airbnb's million-dollar insurance policy.

The sad part about this incident is it takes away from the fact the overwhelming majority of Airbnb experiences are extremely positive. It costs nothing to sign up for a free listing. Airbnb also offers a free photography service where a photographer will come to your home and take professional pictures of your property. Plus you get the chance to meet interesting people from around the world.

If you are a person who will never cruise again because of a Norwalk virus outbreak on a cruise ship, then Airbnb may not be for you. The bottom line is you have to be comfortable with the idea of strangers in your home.

Tantalizing guests with creative dishes

Ichiban Japanese Steak House on Carlton

CONTRIBUTED

In Japanese, the name Ichiban means number 1 and it certainly rings true as the long-standing Ichiban Japanese Steak House in the heart of downtown at 189 Carlton St. has stood the tasteful test of time. Ichiban first opened its Winnipeg location in 1973.

The Winnipeg and Minneapolis locations continue to thrive and tantalize guests with their succulent, creative dishes with an entertaining spin. The decor of the Winnipeg location is outstanding, with a warm, inviting pagoda-styled entrance and an atmosphere that ranges from casual to formal.

Although teppanyaki is Ichiban's staple offering, Ichiban's owners, The Lakeview Group of Companies, recently completed extensive renovations, which include a new Japanese pub where diners can relax with a drink, catch a game, and enjoy a unique assortment of Japanese pub delights. The new pub menu includes items such as sushi tacos, Japanese poutine with teriyaki gravy and New Bothwell cheese curds, chicken yakitori, and classics such as teriyaki wings and tempura.

For those wishing to experience the art of teppanyaki, you will not be disappointed, as the artistry and showmanship of the chefs is outstanding. Teppanyaki is the Japanese term for "iron cooking" where steak, chicken and a flavourful assortment of fish and seafood are seared with vegetables on a sizzling iron plate in the centre of your table.

Ichiban also offers special combinations consisting of two of your choices — filet mignon, teriyaki salmon, chicken, scallops or shrimp for $30. A sampling of individual dishes consists of mouth-watering lobster, a vegetarian offering and the restaurant's famous chicken livers sautéed with mushrooms in a delectable special sauce.

If you are attending an event at the MTS Centre or RBC Convention Centre, there is climate controlled access to Ichiban via the Winnipeg Skywalk.

The staff and management of Ichiban are thrilled to showcase their new surroundings and have you experience the delightful new menu items. Reservations for the authentic teppanyaki experience are recommended by calling Ichiban at 204-925-7400.

Ichiban opens daily at 5 p.m.

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metro SPORTS

Sidney Crosby will be Canada's captain at the world championship in Prague

WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015

A Saturday as big as it gets

MAYWEATHER-PACQUIAO

Fight of the century not only event to anticipate

The most-anticipated fight of all time; the best-known horse race; the premier baseball rivalry; the NFL draft: those are just the highlights.

Super Saturday — perhaps a day unlike any other in the history of sports — awaits.

Stock the refrigerator, replace the remote batteries, get the weekend errands done early, invite your friends, fire up that grill and if you're very fortunate, confirm those flights. For the sports consumer, an amazing number of options will be available.

From the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight that could generate $400 million and topple every known record in boxing history, to the 141st edition of the Kentucky Derby, to the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox colliding for the 2,142nd time to the NFL draft's final rounds and so much more, it's a sports enthusiast's dream.

The fight in Las Vegas is overshadowing all, with good reason.

"I don't plan on being there," said Masters champion Jordan Spieth, "but I may be."

Here's the translation. Spieth is playing in the Match Play Championship at San Francisco — another really big event that won't generate much of a blip this weekend because of everything else happening in the sports world. If he's ousted before Saturday, his consolation prize is a trip to Vegas.

"There are tickets," Spieth said.

Tickets, yes — ones he doesn't want to use, but at least he has them. Most people didn't have a chance at getting into the MGM Grand this weekend, and some deep-pocketed folks have spent more than $250,000 for a pair of prime seats.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer.

He meant the spectacle surrounding the fight.

He could have just as easily been talking about the worldwide hubbub of what awaits on Super Saturday.

"It's time to fight now ... the biggest fight in boxing history," Mayweather said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

52

The fight will be broadcast in at least 52 countries, and who knows how many will be able to access it online globally.

The pay-per-view for the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight will cost around $100 to watch in your home. JOHN GURZINSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

DREAM DAY

THE DERBY

A field of 20 will run for the roses at Churchill Downs. About $125 million was bet on the Derby last year, more than 160,000 fans are expected at Churchill and it's not implausible to think that 15 million or so will watch on TV in the U.S. alone.

THE PLAYOFFS

The NHL playoffs continue, with Washington and the New York Rangers in Game 2. Depending on what happened Thursday, there's a chance the NBA could see one or two Game 7s to end the first round.

FOR EVERYONE ELSE

Real Madrid face Sevilla in a very big Spanish soccer match, NASCAR has qualifying at Talladega on Saturday, no small event on its schedule either. There's an LPGA tournament, plus Detroit and Kansas City are squaring off in a matchup of two of baseball's best teams early this season.

Jameis Winston takes the call from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Thursday in Bessemer, Ala. BUTCH DILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL DRAFT

Winston's hometown knows No. 1 picks

Camera crews filed in and out of Hueytown High School to take pictures of Jameis Winston's retired No. 8 jersey and get footage before his NFL draft celebration.

Everyone in Bessemer, Ala., on Thursday was there to see Winston go No. 1 to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The former Florida State national champion quarterback, 2013 Heisman Trophy winner and top prospect skipped the televised festivities in Chicago to celebrate the draft with family and friends next door to Hueytown.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

The Buccaneers are counting on Jameis Winston to help them become relevant again. The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback was selected with the first overall pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night, instantly becoming the face of a franchise that missed the playoffs the past seven seasons and hasn't won a post-season game since the club's Super Bowl run in 2002.

Driving around his small, football-loving hometown there were no obvious signs of the looming celebration.

"Just like we watched Bo Jackson," said Bessemer's Harry W. Carey.

Jackson is another Heisman-winning superstar who hails from Bessemer — and incidentally also went No. 1 in the 1986 draft, to the Bucs.

Winston, though, remains a polarizing figure even in his hometown.

He was involved in several highly publicized off-the-field incidents while at Florida State, including the infamous crab legs caper. A former FSU student also has filed a lawsuit against Winston, accusing him of rape, assault, false imprisonment and emotional distress. Winston has said the sex was consensual and was never arrested or charged. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Wiggins named rookie of the year

Dressed in a navy blue tuxedo with shiny black lapels, Andrew Wiggins certainly looked the part while collecting his NBA rookie of the year award Thursday.

The Canadian phenom looked even better on the court in his first season in the league.

The Vaughan, Ont., native received 110 of 130 first-place votes and had 604 points in the voting. Chicago's Nikola Mirotic finished second with 14 first-place votes and 335 points.

"It means a lot to me. I know it means a lot to the organization and there's a whole lot of history," Wiggins said. "It should bring a lot of hope for the future of the Minnesota Timberwolves. It should give people a different look at things. This is the uprising. We've got a lot of young talent."

After coming to the Timberwolves in the trade that sent Kevin Love to Cleveland, Wiggins averaged 16.9 points and 4.6 rebounds while playing all 82 games.

Wiggins was drafted No. 1 overall by the Cavaliers last summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andrew Wiggins
BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Messi expecting 2nd child

Lionel Messi and his partner Antonella Roccuzzo are expecting a second child.

Messi placed a black-and-white photograph of his son Thiago, 3, tenderly kissing Roccuzzo's belly on his official Instagram account.

The caption says, "Expecting you eagerly."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL playoff ratings up

The big winner through the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs may be Rogers Media.

The Toronto-based company, which paid $5.2 billion for exclusive national rights to all NHL games for 12 years, saw ratings jump 36 per cent over last season's first round, according to Canadian ratings company Numeris. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Altercation muddles NBL Canada championship

Game 7 of the National Basketball League Canada's championship series was called off on Thursday night after an altercation between players on the Windsor Express and Halifax Rainmen.

The incident occurred Thursday morning during shootarounds as both teams prepared for the decisive game. The Rainmen's front office felt it was unsafe for the team to compete Thursday night and did not show up for the game.

It was unclear how the championship series would be completed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Wings captain Henrik Zetterberg embraces Lightning forward Tyler Johnson after Tampa Bay's Game 7 victory on Wednesday night in Florida. Johnson had six goals and an assist in the first-round series. MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Lightning look to get even with Habs

NHL PLAYOFFS

Montreal swept Tampa Bay last year

Steven Stamkos got a long taste of playoff action in 2011 when the Tampa Bay Lightning reached the Eastern Conference final.

Most of his teammates got a rude welcome to the NHL playoffs: a four-game first-round sweep at the hands of the Montreal Canadiens last season. Injuries to goaltender Ben Bishop and others contributed, but it was a weak showing for a young, talented group.

Coach Jon Cooper has been asked many times since what the Lightning learned from that sweep. He saw it in a Game 6 win over the Detroit Red Wings this week that helped Tampa Bay come back from multiple series deficits to advance to the second round.

0

The number of goals sniper Steven Stamkos scored in the first round of the playoffs.

"You have to go through it," Cooper said Monday night. "You can (take) the drivers' exam, pass that, it doesn't make you a good driver. You've still got to get behind the wheel. Last year's experience I think really helped us."

Just getting over the hump for one victory was progress. After picking up four, the Lightning face the Canadiens in a rematch, only this time Montreal has home ice at Bell Centre but Tampa Bay swept the five-game regular-season series.

Much has changed since that sweep. Beyond Nikita Kucherov, Ondrej Palat and Tyler Johnson blossoming and Stamkos and defenceman Victor Hedman picking up another year of experience, the Lightning signed centre Brian Boyle and defenceman Anton Stralman in the off-season and traded for defencemen Jason Garrison and Braydon Coburn for some extra depth.

"You look at the lineup and a lot of guys have grown," said Johnson, who leads the Lightning with six playoff goals. "We brought in a lot of guys with experience and skill and a lot more leadership. I think this year's team's a lot different than last year's team."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RELIEVED
SECURE

OMG: 'SPIDERMAN' SCALES PARIS TOWER FOR VICTIMS IN NEPAL

French "Spiderman" Alain Robert climbed up the highest building in Paris with a Nepalese flag in hand this week, in tribute to the victims of the devastating earthquake that hit the country.

The 53-year-old French daredevil scaled the 210-metre high Montparnasse Tower in the French capital without a security harness in a little less than an hour.

During his climb, he tried to fix a Nepalese and multicolour prayer flags to the building, but these quickly fluttered away with the wind.

Before starting his climb, he said his thoughts went to mountaineers stuck at the Everest base camp, where many died in avalanches triggered by the monster quake that has killed more than 5,000 people and left some 10,000 injured.

The Frenchman has climbed some 130 structures around the world without ropes or other safety equipment, setting a record for "most buildings climbed unassisted" according to Guinness World Records.

These include the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, the tallest tower in the world, the Eiffel Tower, Empire State Building, and Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Twin Towers.

It is the third time that he has climbed the Montparnasse Tower.

"If I am still physically in shape, I will be able to climb until 60, 65 years old," Robert said. AFP

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Keith
Financial Services Manager
Nàim Avenue Location
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IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Mercury's change of sign today urges a change in attitude on your part. Try taking a step back from what you have been stressing about over the past few weeks.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The more others try to change your way of looking at things the more you will dig in your heels, and you are right to resist. Only you know what is best for you and your instincts tell you this is a time for consolidation, not change.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It is time to seize the initiative, declare your independence and start something new. With Mercury, your ruler, moving into your own sign today you can be sure that whatever you begin will be stamped with the mark of success.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There are times when you are quite unsociable and this is one of them. By all means spend some time by yourself to think things through and decide what your next major move is going to be.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Social activities are under excellent stars at the moment, so take time out of your busy schedule to have fun with friends. Also, if there is some kind of cause or social movement that is close to your heart now is the time to get more involved.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you are not making career plans then you should be. Don't think only in terms of earning money and moving up the corporate ladder, think too about making a difference.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good time to be on the move but if work and family commitments keep you stuck in one place you can at least make vacation plans for later in the year. Go somewhere exotic.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Mind planet Mercury moves into one of the more secretive areas of your chart today, so chances are you won't have much to say for yourself and what you do say will be deliberately misleading. Just watch out you don't mislead yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Partners and loved ones will have plenty to say for themselves today and not all of it will be music to your ears, but do listen. Once they have let off steam things will quickly get back to normal.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A task you have been putting off for ages will have to be dealt with over the next few days. Then you can turn your attention to more enjoyable things.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't worry if your confidence has been a bit low in recent weeks because as from today you will be much more positive about your long-term prospects. It's always a great time to be you, but now more so than ever.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
A needy individual may get on your nerves but being the nice guy you are you will do what you can to help them. But make sure they know that this is not going to become a regular thing. Sooner or later they have to get a grip.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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RECIPE Chicken Morsels with Rice Noodles and Sesame Sauce

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 11 minutes

Ingredients
Serves 4
- 1 lb skinless boneless chicken thighs, diced
- 1 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- ½ cup chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 3 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp molasses
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp hot chili paste (or to taste)
- 6 oz medium rice noodles (¼ inch wide)
- 1½ cups thinly sliced red or yellow bell pepper
- 1½ cups thinly sliced snow or sugar snap peas
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or parsley
- 2 tsp sesame seeds, toasted
- Fresh bean sprouts and chopped red onion (optional)

Directions
1. Place chicken, soy sauce and cornstarch in a bowl; stir till well combined. Add oil to large non-stick wok and sauté chicken 4 minutes, until almost cooked. Remove and set aside. Wipe out the pan.

2. For sauce, combine stock, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar, molasses, cornstarch, sesame oil and chili paste in a small bowl; stir until well combined.

3. Cook noodles in boiling water 2 minutes. Drain and set aside.

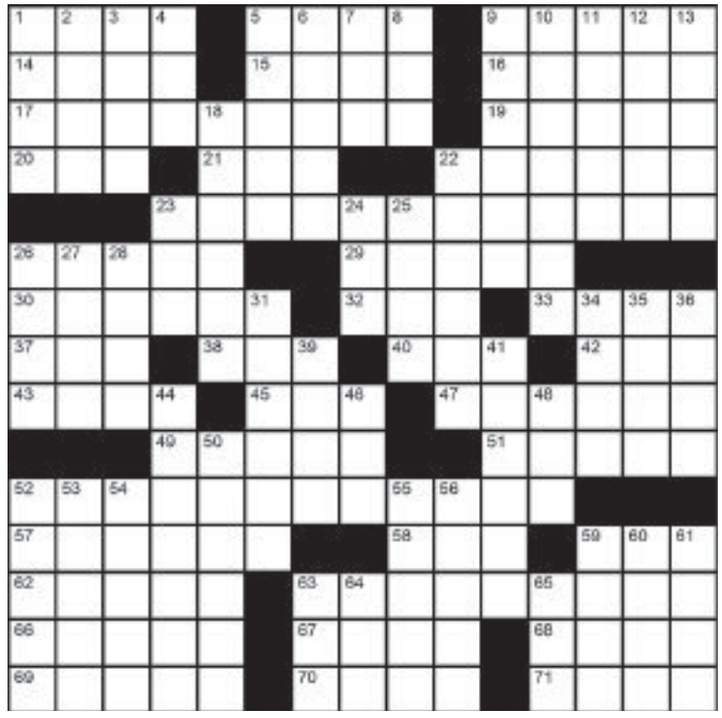
4. Respray wok with cooking oil and add peppers and peas. Sauté 2 minutes, stir in the sauce and chicken. Cook, stirring, for about 1 minute, until the sauce has thickened. Add the rice noodles and heat thoroughly, about 2 minutes. Serve on a large platter garnished with cilantro or parsley and sesame seeds. Scatter bean sprouts and onion overtop, if desired.

Nutrition information per serving
- Calories 317
- Protein 40 g
- Fat 11 g
- Saturated fat 2 g
- Carbohydrates 16 g
- Cholesterol 148 mg
- Sodium 506 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Facial arch
5. Adhere
9. Chunks
14. Hawkeye State
15. Lima's land
16. Engraved head necklace piece
17. Iron Man's alter ego in the new Robert Downey Jr. superhero movie at #30-Across: 2 wds.
19. Canadian singer Eva of "Bitter Meets Sweet"
20. First aid team, e.g.
21. She alternative
22. Portland's state
23. Carey Mulligan's new movie based on the 1874 Thomas Hardy novel, "Far from the __ __" (2015)
26. Shock weapon
29. The Carpenters songstress
30. "Avengers: Age of __" (2015)
32. Centre
33. Inscribe
37. Furthermore
38. __ King Cole
40. Pharaoh snake
42. Shed tool
43. Beehive State
45. __-i-Noor Diamond
47. Journalist's informative contact
49. Thwart
51. Regular
52. "Rough Hands" and "This Could Be Anywhere in the World" band from St. Catharines, ON
57. Best Buy purchase
58. 'Germ' add-on (Relevant)
59. Ouest's opposite
62. 'Punny' joke reaction
63. Sport for Harry Potter
66. Befuddle
67. Commedia dell'__
68. Lei-wearer's party
69. BC: Island of the Haida Gwaii archipelago
70. Pizza __ (Product by frozen meals brand Michelina's)
71. Nice

DOWN
1. Chomp
2. Leeway
3. Possesses
4. Method
5. Chose
6. Shaver's target
7. Be mistaken
8. Little laugh
9. Hard to come by
10. "__ & Shirley"
11. Friend
12. Under
13. __-__-so
18. __, Lois & Bram
22. Shrek's beloved Fiona, for one
23. Sea: French
24. Pres. Eisenhower
25. "Glee" actress Ms. Rivera
26. Ballet skirt
27. Much: 2 wds.
28. Ancient portico
31. Village in BC known for its hot springs
34. Drive-__
35. __-Cola
36. Scoundrel
39. "What's Love Got __ __ with It" by Tina Turner
41. Served the orange juice
44. Ron __ (Brandon, MB born goalie who is currently GM of the Philadelphia Flyers)
46. Farm bird
48. Function
50. Mr. Richie, Nicole's dad
52. Pertaining to a pond's green film
53. Greasy
54. Lyric poem
55. Stefano __, Canadian celebrity chef
56. Book's reference section
59. Dainty case
60. Skim over
61. Dull sound
63. '_' __ in Quebec
64. Vase
65. Type

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- Our in-house finance support gives equal opportunity to all, regardless of credit concerns.
- We report your payments to both major credit bureaus so you can establish or re-establish your credit.
- We lend our own money and make approval decisions, not the bank. Instead of making payments to a traditional lender, you simply arrange a vehicle loan and make payments through Birchwood Credit Solutions, therefore you 'buy' and 'pay' all in one place.

Three city-wide locations
1065 Salter Street - between Leila and Partridge
768 Nairn Avenue - corner of Chester Street
3965 Portage Avenue - inside Birchwood Honda West

toll-free:1-877-676-7914
Get on the road to stress-free car ownership
birchwoodcredit.com

Of all the beverage containers that weren't recycled, how many were yours?

Last year, Manitobans recycled more beverage containers than ever before. Unfortunately, tons of them still ended up in the landfill, not a blue bin. Even a few containers pile up fast, so recycle your empty cans, bottles, cartons, and juice boxes every time.